A BRIEF HISTORY OF WASATCH COUNTY FROM ITS SETTLEMENT AND ESPECIALLY OF HEBER CITY.

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM LINDSAY IN 1929.

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A brief history of wasatch county from its settlement and especially of Heber City.

Much of the early history is taken from the journal of.

John Crook who was one of the original band of Pioneer settlers
and was one of the 17 men who with their families wintered here
in 1859, called at that time Provo Valley.

He says, "In the winter of 1858 a meeting washeld in Provo by men who had no land and who desired to venture making new homes in that high cold climate where it was claimed there was frost every month of the year.

President Young's advice was to settle wherever possible to raise crops of grain hay and vegetables to sustain life.

But to be sure to organize and go in parties sufficiently mumerous to defend themselves from attacks of the Indians.

It was known that the land here wasgood and water plentiful. But they had no proof that wheat could be matured, but these men had faith to believe that with the blessings of the Lord they would succeed and they were ready and willing to make the attempt as early as possible in the spring of 1859.

There were a few men who had wintered stock in the valley a year or two before this Wm M. Wall, Wm Meeks, Wm Cummings and (Robert) Parker but they were all very doubtful about raising wheat in this climate. Charles Shelton and Alex Wilkins are also said to have a ranch house. All these were in what is now the Charleston ward where they could cut grass on the river bottoms.

Provo valley had been used as a summer herd ground for the people of Provo and vicinity for a number of years. The land

The men who attended the meeting in Provo in 1858 appointed win Meeks to be their leader when they would come up to the valley in the following spring and that all would make preparations for making a start ascarly as possible, bringing their wivesand children, cows, pigs, chickens as well as plows, harrows and furniture with the avowed intention of making their future homes here if the Lord would bless them in their labors and temper the elements for their sakes, and make it possible for them to mature crops to sustain themselves and their families.

The spring of 1859 however was late so it was the last day of April when a small company of ten men with 3 wagons and oxen for teams left Provo to come up Provo Canyon into this valley to make a start and prove whether or not they would be successful in raising those things needful to support life and make comfortable homes for their families. These men were Thomas Rasband, John Crook, Charles N. Carroll, John Carlile, John Jordan, Henry Chatwin, Jesse Bond, James Carlile, Wm Giles Jr., and a man named Carpenter, also Geo. Carlile.

They had a very bad road and several snowslides to passover in Provo Canyon. In fact they had to uncouple the wagons
in some places and take them over the snowslides in seperate
parts, which made very hard work for the men and their ox teams.

It was the third day when they reached the open valley and to
their surprize they found 2 men plowing and who had been plowing for 2 days. Their names were James Davis and Robert

and sowing with hope and faith that they would reap a harvest

in the fall. While getting their crops planted they camped

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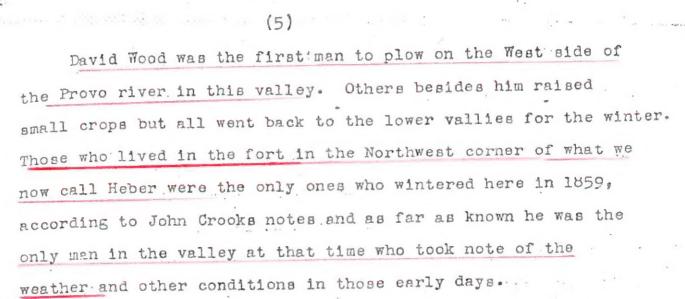
A town site had also been surveyed and as soon as possible they began to build log cabins and prepare for winter. They decided to build close together in a Fort shape so as to be able to protect themselves from the Indians if need be. The north west corner of the town site was selected as the place to build the fort which attfirst was 2 blocks long and 2 blocks wide. The houses were close together with openings to let their stock in and out and that could be closed when necessary the houses were nearly all built with green cottonwood logs but on the river bottoms. They were all kept very busy raising their crops and building homes where they could be fairly confortable in the cold winter months that they knew was sure to come. When they would be shut out from the rest of the world for months. When they got their log nuts prepared they brought



Their first wheat crop was injured some by the frosts
but still could be made into flour and they were not discouraged.
However they had to go to Provo to a grist mill and with ox
teams, bad roads that took 4 days. So much of the wheat had
to ground in coffee mills or boiled and eaten whole with milk.

Most of the families had one or more cows. One of the hardest jobs these men had to do was to provide hay for their oxen and cows during the winter months. The only grassthey could get grew in wet swampy places and all had to be cut by hand with a scythe which wasthe very hardest kind of work.

There was quite a mumber of men who came and raised crops and built houses that summer but went back to Brovo for the winter rather than provide hay for their cattle during the long winter and to be shut out from the rest of the world for months. The names of those who with their families stayed in the valley in the winter of 1859 are. Thomas Rasband, John Crook, C.N. Carrol, John Carlile, John Jordan, Alex Sessions, Bradford Sessions, John Sessions, Hyrum Oakes, John Lee, Richard: Jones, James Davis, Wm Davidson, James Laird, Elisha Thomas, James Carlile, and Jane Clotworthy, a widow, Charles C. Thomas then single lived with his brother Elisha. Jesse Bond and Robert Broadhead then single went to Brovo as did quite a number of others. John Carlile got seriously hurt while crossing the Provo river in June 1859 and he died in October 1859 being the first grown person to die the the valley. A child of Sariah Cook's had died in June 1859 being the first death among the settlers here.



Quite a number ofmen who came into the valley in 1859 and secured land and some who even built log cabins never came back having become discouraged for some cause.

Elias Cox and John Hamilton are given credit for building the first thouses in the fort. The first white child born in the valley was Timpanogos Davidson, daughter of Wm. and Ellen Davidson. And the first child born in the fort was Sarah Crook daughter of John and Mary Giles Crook.

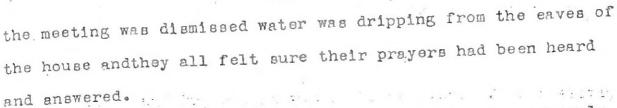
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The first winter in the valley was a long and dreary one for those who remained. The snow fell early and deep and for some 3 or 4 months they were entirely without communication with the rest of the world. However they had their little meetings on the Sabbath day and atother times and in their simple sincere way tried to cheer and encourage each other asbest they could.

It is related that near the end of March 1860 the snow was still deep and no signs of spring and some were getting discouraged. They held a meeting in John Lee's house and during the meeting they prayed sincerely and earnestly that the Lord would hear their prayers and cause the snow to pass away very soon and the spring time come that their famished oxen and cows might get grass to eat and that they themselves could again get in touch with their friends in the lower vallies. Before



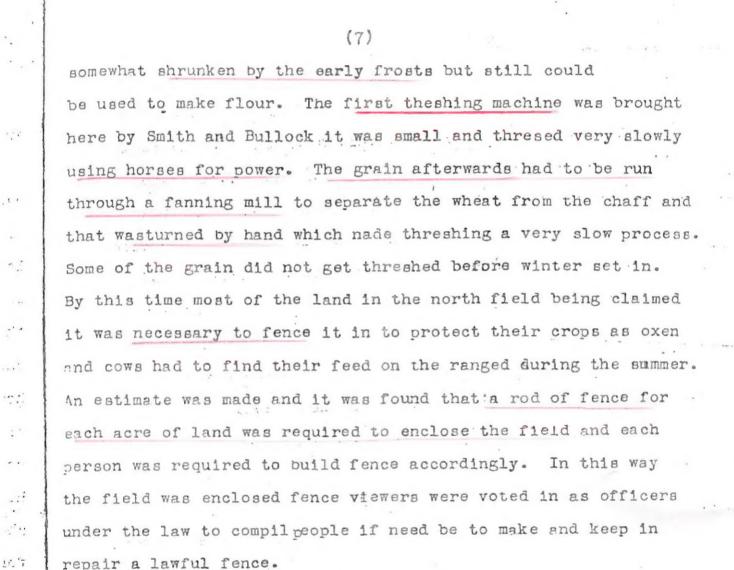
In the spring of 1860 quite a large number of new people came to make their homes in the new valley. They had heard that grain crops had been raised here the year before and that good land and water to irrigate it was plentiful and cheap. They were anxious to secure land and make themselves homes while there was such a good chance to do this. Wm. Meeks who had been chosen astheir leader before they left Provo never made a real home in the valley. So early in 1860 Wm M. Wall was appointed presiding Elder and he chose John M. Murdoch and James Laird as counselors. At that time there were some 200 people here making homes and putting in crops. Early in July they began to talk about celebrating the 24th and some suggested building a bowery. for that purpose but John M. Murdock said he would suggest that they build a meeting house that would answer that purpose and also as a school house and dance hall also for theatres, and all kinds of gatherings. This suggestion was heartily approved and all hands went to work with a will and had it ready for their 24th celebration and answered all purposes for some years. It was 20 by 40 feet with a large open fire place and chimney in each end big enough to take in wood 3 to 4 feet long.

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About this time bhey decided to call their little town .
Heber in honor of Heber C. Kimball who at that time was first counselor to President Brigham Young.

In 1860 the greater part of the north field was put under cultivation and fairly good crops raised, the wheat however was



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People who could not take their wheat to a Provo gristmill were still grinding wheat in coffee mills or boiling it and eating it whole with milk. These were busy days for everybody, making roads into the canyons to get poles to make fences, to get logs to build houses, stabled, barns to shelter their stock through the cold winter months and provide hay for the oxen and cows who were so necessary to help make their living.

The first marriage in the valley occured on Christmas day 1860. When Charles C. Thomas and Emmeline Sessions were married by Thomas Rasband. Another couple were married in the evening of that day at Center creek by Silas Smith, they were Harvey The following winter was not so lonely meeks and a Miss Doudal.

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